8.0 GLOSSARY

This chapter contains ASC X12- and government-specific glossaries.

8.1 X12 GLOSSARY

ANSI
American National Standards Institute

ANSI Standard
A document published by ANSI that has been approved through the consensus process of public announcement and review. Each such standard must have been developed by an ANSI committee and must be revisited by that committee within 5 years for updating. See Draft Standard for Trial Use (DSTU).

Area Transaction Set
A predefined area within a transaction set (header, detail, summary) containing segments and their various attributes.

ASC X12
Accredited Standards Committee, X12. It comprises government and industry members who create electronic data interchange (EDI) standards for submission to ANSI for subsequent approval and dissemination.

Authentication
A mechanism that allows the receiver of an electronic transmission to verify the sender and the integrity of the content of the transmission through the use of an electronic "key" or algorithm shared by the trading partners. That algorithm is sometimes referred to as an electronic signature.

Compliance Checking
A checking process that is used to ensure that a transmission complies with ANSI X12 syntax rules.

Conditional (C)
A data element requirement designator that indicates that the presence of a specified data element is dependent on the value or presence of other data elements in the segment. The condition must be stated and must be computer processable.

Control Segment
A segment that has the same structure as a data segment but is used for transferring control information for grouping data segments. Control segments may be loop control segments (LS/LE), transaction set control segments (ST/SE), or functional group control segments (GS/GE), defined in X12.6, or interchange control segments (ISA/IEA/TA1) defined in X12.5.

Data Element

The basic unit of information in the EDI standards containing a set of values that represent a singular fact. It may be single-character codes, literal descriptions, or numeric values.

Data Element Length

The range, minimum to maximum, of the number of character positions available to represent the value of a data element. A data element may be of variable length and range from minimum to maximum or it may be of fixed length in which the minimum is equal to the maximum.

Data Element Reference Number

Number assigned to each data element as a unique identifier.

Data Element Requirement Designator

A code defining the need for a data element value to appear in the segment if the segment is transmitted. The X12 codes are mandatory (M), optional (O), or conditional (C). The government may consider a segment "mandatory" even through it is "optional" by X12 standards.

Data Element Separator

A unique character preceding each data element that is used to delimit data elements within a segment. Government uses "*" as the delimiter.

Data Element Type

A data element may be one of six types: numeric, decimal, identifier, string, date, or time.

Delimiters

Two levels of separators and a terminator. The delimiters are an integral part of the transferred data stream. They are specified in the interchange header and may not be used in a data element value elsewhere in the interchange. From highest to lowest level, the separators and terminators are segment terminator and data element separator.

DISA

Data Interchange Standards Association. A nonprofit organization funded by ASC X12 members to serve as the Secretariat for X12.

DISA

Defense Information Systems Agency. The Department of Defense's (DoD's) Executive Agency for all information systems technology.

DSTU

Draft Standard for Trial Use. Represents a document approved for publication by the full X12 committee following membership consensus and subsequent resolution of negative votes. (Final Report of X12 Publications Task Group). The Draft EDI Standard for Trial

Use document represents an ASC X12 approved standard for use prior to approval by ANSI. See ANSI Standard.

EDI
Electronic data interchange. The computer-application-to-computer-application exchange of business information in a standard format.

Electronic Commerce
Electronic Commerce is the integration of electronic mail, electronic funds transfer, EDI, and similar techniques into a comprehensive, electronic-based system encompassing all business functions, including procurement, payment, supply management, transportation, and base operations.

Electronic Envelope
Electronic information that binds together a set of transmitted documents being sent from one sender to one receiver.

Element Delimiter
A single-character that follows the segment identifier and separates each data element in a segment except the last.

Functional Group
A group of one or more transaction sets bounded by a functional group header segment and a functional group trailer segment.

Functional Group Segments (GS/GE)
These segments identify a specific functional group of documents such as purchase orders.

Industry Conventions
Defines how the ASC X12 standards are used by the specific industry.

Industry Guidelines
Defines the EDI environment for using conventions within an industry. It provides assistance on how to implement X12 standards.

Interchange Control Segments (ISA/IEA)
These segments identify a unique interchange being sent from one sender to one receiver (see electronic envelope).

Interchange Control Structure
The interchange header and trailer segments that envelop one or more functional groups or interchange-related control segments and perform the following functions: (1) define the data element separators and the data segment terminators, (2) identify the sender and receiver, (3) provide control information for the interchange, and (4) allow for authorization and security information. (X12.5)

Loop

A group of semantically related segments; these segments may be either bounded or unbounded (X12.6). The N1 loop is an example of a loop, which includes Segments N1 to PER for name and address information.

Mandatory (M)

A data element/segment requirement designator that indicates the presence of a specified data element is required.

Mapping

The process of identifying the standard data element's relationship to application data elements.

Max Use

Specifies the maximum number of times a segment can be used at the location in a transaction set.

Message

Entire data stream including the outer envelope.

Optional (O)

A data element/segment requirement designator that indicates the presence of a specified data element/segment is at the option of the sending party and can be based on the mutual agreement of the interchange parties.

Qualifier

A data element that identifies or defines a related element, set of elements, or a segment. The qualifier contains a code taken from a list of approved codes.

Repeating Segment

A segment that may be used more than once at a given location in a transaction set. See Max Use.

Security

System screening that denies access to unauthorized users and protects data from unauthorized uses.

Segment

Segments consist of logically related data elements in a defined sequence. A data segment consists of a segment identifier, one or more data elements each preceded by an element separator, and a segment terminator.

Segment Directory
Provides the purpose and format of the segments used in the construction of transaction sets. The directory lists each segment by name, purpose, identifier, the contained data elements in the specified order, and the requirement designator for each data element.

Segment Identifier
A unique identifier for a segment, consisting of a combination of two or three upper-case letters and digits. The segment identifier occupies the first-character positions of the segment. It is not a data element.

Segment Terminator
A unique character appearing at the end of a segment to indicate the termination of the segment, e.g., N/L.

Syntax
The grammar or rules that define the structure of the EDI standards (i.e., the use of loops, qualifiers, etc.). Syntax rules are published in ANSI X12.6.

Transaction Set
A document that unambiguously defines, in the standard syntax, information of business or strategic significance and consists of a header segment, one or more data segments in a specified order, and a trailer segment.

Transaction Set ID
An identifier that uniquely identifies the transaction set. This identifier is the first data element of the transaction set header segment.

Translation
The act of accepting documents in other than standard format and translating them to the standard.

Version/Release
Identifies the publication of the standard being used for the generation or the interpretation of data in the X12 standard format. May be found in the Functional Group Header Segment (GS) and in the Interchange Control Header Segment (ISA). See Control Segment.

X12
The ANSI committee responsible for the development and maintenance of standards for EDI.

X12.5
Interchange Control Structure. This standard provides the interchange envelope of a header and trailer for the electronic interchange through a data transmission, and it provides a structure to acknowledge the receipt and processing of this envelope.

X12.6
Application Control Structure. This standard describes the control segments used to envelop loops of data segments, transaction sets, and groups of related transaction sets.

8.2 FEDERAL GLOSSARY

AIS
Automated information systems

DES
Data encryption standard

DFAS
Defense Finance and Accounting Service

DISA
Defense Information Systems Agency

DLMS
Defense Logistics Management System

ECA-PMO
Federal Electronic Commerce Acquisition Program Management Office

FMS
Financial Management Service

GSA
General Services Administration

ISA
Interchange control header identifier

NIST
National Institute of Standards and Technology

NTE
Note identifier

OFPP
Office of Federal Procurement Policy

OMB
Office of Management and Budget

PLUS
Protection of logistics unclassified/sensitive systems

SMC
Standards Management Committee

UN/EDIFACT
EDIFACT; electronic data interchange for administration, commerce, and transport